AMERICAN MUSEUM NOVITATES

Number 617 — Published by THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY NEW YORK CITY — May 9, 1933

59.57.72 L (7)

DESCRIPTION OF A NEW NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF *LASIA* (DIPTERA, CYRTIDAE)

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Mr. C. H. Curran recently sent me a beautiful species of *Lasia*, evidently related to *L. scribae* Osten Sacken, *L. klettii* Osten Sacken and *L. yucatanensis* J. Bequaert, but amply distinct. Since I have seen all these species, I do not hesitate to describe it as new.

Lasia purpurata, new species

Large, metallic blue with strong purple reflections, moderately pilose. Puncturation very fine on thorax, coarse on abdomen. Legs black. Third antennal segment very gradually narrowed into a long, sharp apex.

MALE.—Head moderately large, flattened hemispherical. Eyes densely covered with long, grayish pile, contiguous over about the upper half of the head, between the small ocellar tubercle and the short frontal triangle. Ocellar tubercle slightly raised, narrowly triangular; the large posterior ocelli not prominent; the anterior ocellus apparently lacking, its place being taken by a minute circular pit placed close to the posterior ocelli. Antenna (Fig. 1B) narrow; first segment very short, mostly hidden within the antennal socket; second almost square in side view, with rounded upper and lower angles, about as broad as long; third about five times the length of the second, much flattened from the sides, in profile knife-shaped, with the lower margin straighter than the upper one, gradually narrowed toward the base and toward the long and sharp apex; its greatest width about the apical third. Proboscis very long and slender, longer than the body, the labium ending in two very long and narrow labella; labrum (covering the base of the proboscis in the deeply excavated face) smooth, without striation or visible punctures, with a superficial median groove. Frontal triangle very slightly raised in the middle above, without median depression. Thorax and abdomen broad and very convex, forming in profile an even curve dorsally and an almost straight line ventrally. Wing venation (Fig. 1*A*) similar to that of *L. yucatanensis;* but the first and second longitudinal veins united nearer

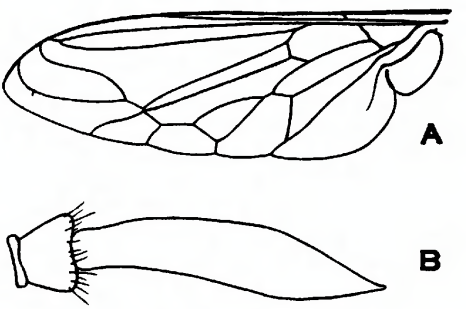

Fig. 1. *Lasia purpurata*, new species. *A*, wing; *B*, antenna.

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the costa and the upper branch of the third vein ending in the costa slightly beyond the tip of the combined first and second; the venation is much the same in both wings.

Integument of head impunctate; of thorax with very minute, rather scattered punctures, especially sparse on the mesonotum which posteriorly is almost smooth; no wrinkles on the sides of thoracic dorsum. Pleura with very fine, transverse striæ. Abdomen densely punctate dorsally; the punctures coarser than in *L. klettii*, though smaller than in *L. yucatanensis*; in the center of the first and second tergites they are crowded, so that the intervening spaces are narrower than the punctures.

Body moderately hairy, much more so than in *L. scribae*, *L. klettii* and *L. yucatanensis;* but the hairs are not long and dense enough to hide or greatly dull the metallic color of the integument. Vertex and occiput with grayish pile. Dorsum of thorax densely covered with erect, moderately long, grayish white, soft hairs mixed with a few stiffer, black hairs; hairs of scutellum mostly black; pleura and sternum mostly covered with longer, black hairs. First and second abdominal tergites with many short, erect hairs, mostly black; the pilosity of the remaining tergites longer and grayish; hairs of sternites black. Legs with black hairs, rather long and dense on the femora.

Body metallic purple-blue, with very strong purplish reflections on dorsum of thorax and abdomen; under side of abdomen black, slightly purplish. Antennae: second segment black; third testaceous, blotched with black and narrowly yellow at the base. Proboscis black. Legs black; apices of femora and tarsi somewhat testaceous; claws black. Wings slightly and uniformly smoky; squamae and halteres blackish.

Length, 15 mm.; of wing, 13 mm.; of proboscis, 16 mm.

TYPE.—Latimer Co., Oklahoma; one male, holotype; June 9, 1931; V. Fisher, collector; in the American Museum of Natural History.

L. purpurata is much more densely hairy than *L. yucatanensis*, *L. klettii* and *L. scribae*, which it otherwise resembles. In this respect it approaches *L. colei* Aldrich, which, however, has a totally different sculpture, smaller antennae, yellow tarsi, etc. The rather coarse punctures of the abdominal tergites also separate it from *L. klettii* and *L. scribae;* while the exceedingly fine sculpture of the thoracic dorsum distinguishes it from *L. yucatanensis*. The shape of the third antennal segment also is characteristic for *L. purpurata;* and while the labrum of this species is smooth, that of the type of *L. klettii* bears a series of fine longitudinal ridges separated by deep grooves. This feature of *L. klettii* I forgot to mention in my earlier paper.